places. However, the question is being reviewed every year in the administration reports from which it will be seen that the position is steadily improving.

Mr. B. DONDE GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that because of the patels being illiterate, the hardships of the raiyats are increasing?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—We cannot say that all their hardships are due to illiterate patels; nor can it be said that all illiterate persons are uncultured.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—There are over 765 patels who do not know even to sign their names. How are the raiyats to obtain receipts from them?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—765 out of 14,000 is not too large a proportion. As education advances, the proportion will get further reduced. For example, about 20 years ago, thousands of patels were illiterate, but now the position is very much better.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Without sacrificing the *hak* of the illiterate patels, would it not be possible to appoint literate persons as *gumastas* in their places?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—That is a different matter. The rule is that in vacancies arising subsequent to 1909, those who have passed the regular tests should be appointed. That rule cannot affect those who have been there from an earlier date. Secondly, there are some *bechirak* villages where raiyats themselves are very few. Even such villages have patels of their own who need not be literate persons.

Mr. R. DASAPPA.—Is there a scheme for training the patels?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Yes, the rules provide for it.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR.—The patels are required to send up reports to the police How will they discharge that responsibility if they are illiterate?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—In such cases, they go to the nearest literate man, like the shanbhog, and get the reports written out for them. The old rules permit of their doing so.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR.—Have not those rules been superseded?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Not till now.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR.—Do not public interests suffer thereby?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Yes, to some extent, but it cannot be helped.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR.—In the Mysore District about 40 per cent of the patels are stated to be illiterate. Is that not a very high percentage?

The SECOND MEMBER (Mr. N. Madhava Rau).—Yes, but it all depends upon local conditions.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR.—Will necessary steps be taken to improve the position early, even in the interests of the Government work itself?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—The matter is receiving attention.

Land Revenue Concessions.

Q.—32. Mr. Hosakoppa KRISHNA RAO (Koppa Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of cases in which any concessions (the nature and extent of such concessions being stated), are shown in the payment of land revenue and loan instalment arrears in all the taluks of the district this year;

(*b*) is the Government order passed making certain revenue concessions still in force?

A.—The CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Mr. A. V. Ramanathan).—

(*a*) It is not possible to compile and furnish information within the time available.

(*b*) Yes, till the end of the official year.

Bechirak Villages in the Malnad.

Q.—35. Mr. MEER MOHAMED SAHIB (Minorities).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of *bechirak* villages (hobliwar) in the malnad districts of Kadur, Shimoga and Hassan;